



White House VISITOR CENTER

1450 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE!

Since the establishment of the National Park Service ninety years ago, the 390 areas of the National Park System have grown to occupy a special place in the hearts of the American people. Among other things parks inspire us, provoke us to think of the past, present, and future, and offer the opportunity to experience the beauty and grandeur of nature.

While visiting President's Park, visitors gain a deeper understanding of our nation's history and the extraordinary people who paved the way for our development and progress. Celebrate with us on Friday, August 25th with a wish for continued success in preserving our park lands so all can "Experience Your America."

"...to promote and regulate the use of the...national parks...which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." – National Park Service Mission



Celebrating Independence Day

If you have the "liberty" to stop by the White House Visitor Center on Tuesday, July 4, 2006, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., you may experience what it would be like to be a "signer" of the Declaration of Independence with the help of National Park Service rangers and volunteers from President's Park. During this full day of free programming, visitors of all ages will have the opportunity to sample some of the sights, sounds, activities, and personages that helped to form the United States of America on July 4, 1776. The day's events will include games, crafts and other activities for both children and adults.

A signature event, scheduled at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. will be a one-of-a-kind opportunity to put on a tricornered hat and play a role in one of this nation's greatest dramas, the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. In this fun and engaging interactive program, suitable for all ages, members of the audience will actually assume the roles of delegates to the Continental Congress and represent their colonies in a debate that will determine the fate of a nation! After the debate, each delegate will sign his or her name with a quill pen to a giant sized copy of the document, receive a facsimile of period currency from his or her respective colony, ring a Liberty Bell, and receive a copy of the Declaration of Independence to keep as a memorial to their great efforts in the service of their nation!

For additional information, call (202) 208-1631.

Monthly Garden Tours Showcase White House History

Visitors will have a special opportunity to visit the White House grounds this summer on Saturday, July 15th and Saturday, August 19th between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Thomas Jefferson is credited as the first president to create a landscaping plan for the White House. He is known to have planted hundreds of seedlings throughout the White House grounds, although none of Jefferson's trees are believed to have survived to the present day. President John Quincy Adams was also an avid gardener who enjoyed planting seedlings, herbs and vegetables during his term in office.

In 1851, during President Millard Fillmore's term, architect Andrew Jackson Downing was hired to create a new landscaping plan for the grounds, adding a circular drive on the south lawn, as well as a circular park (the Ellipse) located south of the White House. In 1969, Lady Bird Johnson created the first Children's Garden at the White House. In 1971, President Nixon's daughter, Trisha, was married in the Rose Garden.

Don't miss your chance this summer to experience the "living" history that abounds in the gardens and grounds of the White House as you view the Children's Garden, the Rose Garden located near the West Wing, and the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden near the East Wing. .

Free same day timed tour tickets may be obtained at the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion (15th and E Streets, N.W.) beginning at 8:00 a.m. on the above dates. For additional information call (202) 208-1631.



Woodrow Wilson's sheep graze on the White House South Lawn, ca. 1918. The National Park Service assumed care of the grounds during the Kennedy Administration. Photo: Library of Congress

SPECIAL FAMILY ACTIVITIES



A SIGNATURE EVENT

On Tuesday, July 4th, "1776," the Visitor Center will become the Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia, PA. From 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. join us as we "host" the second Continental Congress. Delegates from all thirteen colonies will "meet" to sign the Declaration of Independence, one of the most important documents in the history of the United States. It represents the official first step toward the separation of the 13 colonies from the control of Great Britain. Participate in this momentous occasion and take part in the many festivities during the day! *No reservations required, but leave your horse at the door.*



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

On Friday, August 25th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. President's Park will celebrate the 90th birthday of the National Park Service. Book readings, crafts and games will be available for all family members. The only thing we'll be missing will be the cake, but that won't stop us from throwing a big party! *No reservations required.*



CELEBRATE THE CONSTITUTION!

On Saturday, September 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., President's Park will present a special program, "I Signed the Constitution" celebrating Constitution Day. Visitors will have the opportunity to return to the year 1787 and add their names alongside the signatures of Benjamin Franklin, George Washington and other Founding Fathers. Copies of the Constitution will be available to the first 200 visitors. Visitors will have the opportunity to "become" a signer. At 12 noon, the Center will "host" the Constitutional Convention with many "signers" in attendance. Everyone is invited to recite the Preamble to the Constitution at 1:00 p.m. The "town crier" will welcome all guests! Other family activities will be available. *No reservations required, but quill pens will be provided!*



TRAILS ACTIVITIES

On Saturday and Sunday, September 23rd and 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., President's Park will hold its Fall Trails Weekend celebration. President's Park staff and volunteers, with an assist from several community groups, will embark on a full weekend of clean-up chores focused on the Ellipse and Lafayette Park. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the fun! We will be weeding, edging, trimming, blowing leaves, and picking up litter. Tools, safety equipment and supervision are provided. Participants in trail restoration maintenance will receive a President's Park ball cap. Afternoon activities will include walking tours, costumed interpretation and colonial games. *Reservations are needed for trail projects ONLY, please call (202) 208-1631, extension 228.*



WALKS, TALKS AND OTHER THOUGHTS

Interpretive programs are presented by Park Rangers daily, Monday through Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. These programs last from twenty minutes to one hour. More detailed descriptions of today's program are available at the Visitor Center Information desk.



WALKS THROUGH THE PARK

These ranger-led guided walks stop at the many monuments and memorials in President's Park. Available most weekdays at 11:30 a.m.



A SUMMER TALK

This new roving ranger program is presented at 5:00 p.m. daily. Subjects include events and White House history, as well as people honored in President's Park. For further information, contact the Visitor Center (202) 208-1631.



THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Join a Park Ranger's program on such varied subjects as:

"Washington's Washington" –

Hear about our first President's influence on the building of the capital city.

"Before Constitution Avenue" – Learn, among other things, that a creek once flowed near the White House where this busy street is located today!

"Are We There Yet?" –

Take a trip through history to find the story behind the Zero Milestone located in President's Park.

"Where's Art?" – A fun and engaging hunt through the Visitor Center for replicas of art in the White House.

"High Noon in Lafayette Park" –

Special noon presentations on Tuesdays and Thursdays about the stories behind the statues found in this historical park north of the White House. Bring your lunch!



MEN IN HISTORY

Alexander Hamilton, William Tecumseh Sherman, the Marquis de Lafayette, Andrew Jackson – these men are among many honored in President's Park. Check the daily bulletins in the Visitor Center regarding talks of the day on these famous men!



1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

Summer programs will focus on a variety of topics:

"Presidents and Baseball" – Learn why many Presidents have been avid fans and why they loved the game!

"Inside the West Wing" – Explore the past and present of this presidential work place.

"Where were YOU on August 24?" – Hear the story of British troops burning the White House and U.S. Capitol in 1814.

"The Pipsqueak that Roared" –

Hear how one-time sickly child, Teddy Roosevelt, became a Rough Rider during the Spanish-American War and, later, a U.S. President.

"Was he Impeached?" – Learn the story of Andrew Johnson and the controversy surrounding the first President to face impeachment proceedings.

"Mary Todd Lincoln – Trials and Tribulations" – Judge how well you would have fared facing the same life challenges as the wife of the 16th U.S. President.

"Unsung Hero of the Nixon Administration" – Learn the compelling story behind Pat Nixon's lesser-known service to her country, during her husband's administration.

ON THIS DATE



White House Historical Assoc.

August 24, 1814 –

The British burned the White House. Only the sandstone walls remained. A portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart first hung in 1800 was one of the items removed and sent to a safe location by First Lady Dolley Madison.

PULL UP A SEAT!



The video "Gardens and Grounds of the White House" will be shown continually on Saturdays, July 15th and August 19th.



Interpretive Program



Walking Tour



Video Presentation



Special Event



EXPERIENCE
Your AMERICA

Programs may change due to reassignment of rangers to other duties that serve the National Park Service. Every effort is made to maintain the schedule as printed. Please contact the Visitor Center at (202) 208-1631 to confirm programs and dates. The Center is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you wish to be added to our mailing list, e-mail us at wbho_presidents_park@nps.gov.

This calendar is sponsored by the National Park Service and the White House Historical Association.